

Deprivation index formula for assessment

3394. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has proposed a Deprivation Index formula to assess the backwardness of students and the formula shall be used to quantify deprivation of various kinds to introduce affirmative action and make higher education as inclusive;

(b) whether the 27-page report of the six-member commission in higher education has recommended a number of measures to Government;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered these suggestions; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision for implementing them will be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) are in the public domain for wider debate among all stake holders.

Children falling ill due to Mid-Day Meal

3395. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly 36 students of Government primary school, Kailrama district of Haryana, fell-ill after they took sweet rice as Mid-Day Meal and some students started vomiting and complained to nausea while others had loose motions;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and to provide proper cooking and storage facility for food-grains to save them from getting contaminated; and

(c) the number of incidents reported in other States in the past three years and what Government have done to improve the Mid-Day Meal scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Government of Haryana has reported that out of 132 children, 38 children fell ill and were admitted to hospital. Out of these 38 children, 7 students

were enrolled in upper primary classes and did not take mid-day meal at all. State Govt. has further reported that an enquiry was conducted by the Additional Director, which has revealed that the students did not fall ill due to consumption of mid-day meal, but due to eating of seeds of Jatropha Plant growing in the campus of the school. To avoid such incidents in future, the State Government has directed all the District Education Officers, District Elementary Education Officers and Block Education Officers to uproot and destroy all such plants from all Government school premises.

(b) In the Mid Day Meal Guidelines issued in 2006, State Governments have been advised that special attention must be paid, *inter-alia*, to the following measures to ensure safety and hygiene aspects:—

- (i) Kitchen-cum-store is a vital part of the mid day meal scheme. Absence of kitchen-cum-store or inadequate facilities would expose children to food poisoning and other health hazards. Kitchen-cum-store should be separate from classrooms, preferably located at a safe, but accessible distance. It should be well ventilated and designed so that there is separate storage. Central assistance for construction of kitchen sheds @ Rs. 60,000 per unit was provided during 2006-07 as per State wise details in Statement-I. (See below).
- (ii) All Cooks, helpers and other functionaries should also be trained in hygienic habits.
- (iii) Ingredients used for cooking, food grains, pulses vegetables, cooking oil and condiments, should be free from adulteration and pest infestation, and should be used only after proper cleaning and washing.
- (iv) Ingredients should be stored in proper containers, which should protect them from moisture, pest etc.

(c) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have reported incidents of children falling ill due to unhygienic/sub-standard mid-day meal. Detail of such cases is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I***Expenditure of Kitchen-Sheds under Mid-Day Meal Scheme during 2006-07***

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Total No. of Kitchen Shed sanctioned	Amount released (in lakhs)
1	2	3	4
1	Andhra Pradesh	17210	10320.81
2	Arunachal Pradesh	3843	2305.67
3	Assam	30068	18040.56
4	Bihar	16050	9629.75
5	Chattisgarh	5570	3342.28
6	Goa	—	—
7	Gujarat	6318	3790.56
8	Haryana	3185	1911.29
9	Himachal Pradesh	3433	2059.80
10	Jammu & Kashmir	5087	3052.20
11	Jharkhand	5537	3322.14
12	Karnataka	9606	5763.61
13	Kerala	451	270.55
14	Madhya Pradesh	23232	13939.08
15	Maharashtra	18417	11050.20
16	Manipur	1174	704.40
17	Meghalaya	2539	1523.40
18	Mizoram	611	366.85
19	Nagaland	1752	1051.44
20	Orissa	15091	9054.33
21	Punjab	4571	2742.59
22	Rajasthan	8083	4849.58

1	2	3	4
23	Sikkim	800	480.23
24	Tamil Nadu	457	274.30
25	Tripura	962	577.25
26	Uttarkhand	4164	2498.12
27	Uttar Pradesh	22920	13751.61
28	West Bengal	9792	5875.20
29	A&N Islands	—	—
30	Chandigarh	—	—
31	D&N Haveli	99	59.57
32	Daman & Diu	26	15.43
33	Delhi	—	—
34	Lakhsadweep	—	—
35	Pondicherry	—	—
TOTAL:		221039	132622.80

Statement-II*Details of Children falling ill due to Mid-Day Meal*

Sl. No.	State	Details of cases of substandard/unhygienic food
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	The State Govt. has informed that 1839 children were fallen ill. The State Govt. has also informed that after inquiry, in cases where it was proved that the children had fallen ill due to negligence of the implementing agencies, such agencies were replaced. Appropriate warning has also been given to the school authorities to be vigilant.
2.	Karnataka	The State Govt. has reported that 1242 children were taken ill in 34 schools. The Cooks who were found to be negligent were removed and new Cooks appointed.
3.	Maharashtra	The State Govt. has informed that 208 children fell ill in four districts (temporary uneasiness and vomiting sensation). After enquiry in Jalgaon district, an FIR was filed.

1	2	3
4.	Orissa	<p>The State Govt. has informed that 39 children of Laxman Nath Primary School of Balasore District fell ill as the cook had mistakenly used Ammonium Sulphate considering it as edible salt. The cook was removed and the headmaster of the school was placed under suspension.</p> <p>In another incident, 15 children of Madhupur Primary School of Cuttack District had fallen ill. The State Govt. has reported that the headmaster was placed under suspension.</p>
5.	Rajasthan	<p>The State Govt. has informed that 10 children were reported ill in Rajasamand district. Appropriate steps were taken by the State Govt. to terminate the services of the cook and transfer the headmaster and teachers concerned.</p> <p>In another incident, 61 children were affected in Karauli district. State Govt. has reported that disciplinary action has been initiated against the Block Development Officer, Additional Chief Executive of Zila Parishad and School Headmistress and the Teacher.</p>
6.	Tamil Nadu	<p>The State Govt. has informed that 77 children were taken ill in Muttavakkam Panchayat Union Primary School of Kancheepuram district. Forensic test revealed that the toor dal used for cooking contained fungus, the presence of which rendered the food unfit for human consumption. The Nutrition Meal Organiser, cook and Assistant were placed under suspension for negligence.</p>
7.	Uttarakhand	<p>The State Govt. has reported that 2 children of Gandhinagar Primary School of Nainital District fell ill due to consumption of state food. The headmistress of the school was suspended.</p>
8.	Uttar Pradesh	<p>The State Govt. has reported that 282 children in four districts were taken ill. The State Govt. investigated complaints and it has been reported that First Information Report (FIR) has been lodged in two cases with the police and appropriate action has been taken.</p>
9.	West Bengal	<p>The State Govt. has informed that 60 children of Ramachandrapur Primary School of Nadia District fell ill on 28.2.05 due to food poisoning as the food got infected by insecticide spread by an owner of the banana plantation firm located close to the school. An FIR has been lodged against the owner of the plantation firm.</p> <p>In another case, 65 children of Metyadahar Primary School of Paschim Midnapur District fell ill on 4.5.05 after consumption of mid-day meal. The State Government had reported that the incident was inquired and no criminal intention or willful misdeed was found.</p>